

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
Daniel GOURDAIN et al.
Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

INSTALLATION AND METHOD OF
VENTING THE WASTE GASES OF
AIR DISTILLATION OR
LIQUEFACTION UNITS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 3 as follows:

--3. (Amended) Installation according to Claim 1, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) is a chamber forming part of a water-nitrogen tower (1).--

Amend claim 4 as follows:

--4. (Amended) Installation according to claim 1, characterized in that the inert gas is nitrogen, argon, air or a mixture of these gases.--

Amend claim 5 as follows:

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--5. (Amended) Installation according to Claim 2, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) forms part of a water-nitrogen tower (1) placed alongside the stack (2), and the internal spaces in the chamber (13) and in the stack (2) are separated by a partition (3) having, as means for connecting the internal spaces, an outlet (15) for discharging, into the stack, the wet nitrogen contained in the chamber.--

Amend claim 6 as follows:

--6. (Amended) Installation according to claim 1, characterized in that the stack (2) is equipped internally with a set of nozzles (25) through which some or all of the gas introduced into the base of the stack flows.--

Amend claim 7 as follows:

--7. (Amended) Installation according to claim 1, characterized in that the connecting means (15) comprise a discharge outlet provided in a partition (3) separating the internal spaces in the chamber (13) and in the stack (2), and the stack is equipped internally with a set of nozzles (25) arranged in such a way that the top of it is at a level below the top of the discharge outlet (15).--

Amend claim 8 as follows:

--8. (Amended) Installation according to claim 1, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) belongs

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to a water-nitrogen tower (1) having, near its base, a dry nitrogen feed pipe (11) and, in its upper part, a pipe (12) for feeding the hot water to be cooled, above the level of which a wet nitrogen discharge outlet (15), opening into the stack (2), is provided.--

Amend claim 9 as follows:

--9. (Amended) Installation according to claim 1, characterized in that the stack (2) includes, near its base, an air feed pipe (21) and/or a nitrogen feed pipe (22) and/or an oxygen feed pipe (23) and/or a pipe for feeding another gas coming from the distillation.--

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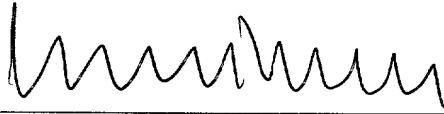
R E M A R K S

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Installation according to Claim 1
~~or 2~~, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) is a chamber forming part of a water-nitrogen tower (1).

4. (Amended) Installation according to ~~any one~~ of Claims 1, 2 and 3claim 1, characterized in that the inert gas is nitrogen, argon, air or a mixture of these gases.

5. (Amended) Installation according to Claim 2~~,~~
~~3 or 4~~, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) forms part of a water-nitrogen tower (1) placed alongside the stack (2), and the internal spaces in the chamber (13) and in the stack (2) are separated by a partition (3) having, as means for connecting the internal spaces, an outlet (15) for discharging, into the stack, the wet nitrogen contained in the chamber.

6. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of~~ Claims 1 and 5claim 1, characterized in that the stack (2) is equipped internally with a set of nozzles (25) through which some or all of the gas introduced into the base of the stack flows.

7. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of~~ Claims 1 and 6claim 1, characterized in that the connecting means (15) comprise a discharge outlet provided in a

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partition (3) separating the internal spaces in the chamber (13) and in the stack (2), and the stack is equipped internally with a set of nozzles (25) arranged in such a way that the top of it is at a level below the top of the discharge outlet (15).

8. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of~~ ~~Claims 1 and 7~~ **claim 1**, characterized in that the discharge chamber (13) belongs to a water-nitrogen tower (1) having, near its base, a dry nitrogen feed pipe (11) and, in its upper part, a pipe (12) for feeding the hot water to be cooled, above the level of which a wet nitrogen discharge outlet (15), opening into the stack (2), is provided.

9. (Amended) Installation according to ~~either of~~ ~~Claims 1 and 8~~ **claim 1**, characterized in that the stack (2) includes, near its base, an air feed pipe (21) and/or a nitrogen feed pipe (22) and/or an oxygen feed pipe (23) and/or a pipe for feeding another gas coming from the distillation.